

American Journal of Numismatics

AND

Bulletin of the American Numismatic & Archæological Society.

VOL. I.

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER, 1866.

No. 7

CONTENTS.

On Muling Coins.....	40
Bulletin of the Amer. Numismatic and Archæological Society.....	50
Boston Numismatic Society.....	50
The Bracteates of the German Kings and Roman Emperors.....	51
Officers of the Rhode Island Numismatic Association.....	52
Rhode Island Copperheads.....	52
Descriptive Catalogue of "Copperheads,".....	54
Coin Sale.....	55
Coin Sale in England.....	55
Correspondence.....	55
Notes and Queries.....	56

ON MULING COINS.

A Mule is defined as "the product or offspring of the ass and the mare, or the horse and the she-ass; a hybrid, a mongrel." As applied to coins, while it involves the same principles in generation, it literally means the product or offspring of two dies, not originally intended for each other.

By the system of muling, dies are mixed heterogeneously; reverses combine in inextricable confusion; and coins are created, which after generations of numismatists will curse as nondescript; and which are an injury—a crying evil—to the proper study of the science, and the proper classification of its illustrations.

The man who claps the head of a monkey on the tail of a fish, and swindles the public by calling it a 'mermaid,' is termed a *bumbag*, an insect that goes about buzzing falsehoods into people's ears, which are the more injurious and the more venal, inasmuch as on a foundation of baseless fabrication is built a superstructure of apparent truth.

What shall we term the artist who by an ingenious combination of the male die of one piece and the female die of another, proclaims to the world the discovery of a new species of coin?

Is not his device for changing the order of art, as injurious in its way, as that of the one who alters the course of nature?

To our view this creation of a hybrid and mongrel coinage is a disreputable piece of business.

The difficulties that must of necessity surround the collection and classification of coins, should not be increased by any one, and surely would not

be by one holding the interests of numismatics near to his heart.

What possible good object can be subserved by thus trifling with important interests?

Are we who make it, as it were, a profession to collect and throw light upon the metallic issues of nations, such children that we must forsooth have them made into toys to amuse us?

As regards the copperhead series, contemptible as it is in itself, it yet illustrates an important period of history, and portrays in its conception and execution the ebb and flow of popular opinion as nothing else can.

To thus tamper with the original meaning of those bits of base metal, is garbling the handwriting and meaning of a great nation.

In those days, when all our gold and silver and copper coins were hoarded and locked up, and had not been replaced by a paper substitute, the efforts to create something in metal which should take their place, were the spontaneous outpourings of the desire of the people; the last vain efforts against the rushing avalanche of irresponsible promises to pay. The people for the nonce took the matter into their own hands, and individual honor was pledged where the national honor failed to meet the emergency.

If those who are in the habit of collecting dies for base purposes of miscegenation, (and we are not aware of the name or personality of one who does so,) we pray them to bethink themselves of what they are doing, and of the legacy of trouble and annoyance, they propose to leave for those who come after them.

We call upon societies and collectors to reflect upon the subject, and to frown upon every such attempt to delude and deceive the innocent and unwary. No glory will be gained by these petty efforts at creation by amalgamation, and the mere desire to own something that is not in the possession of other collectors, ought not to be a sufficient inducement for any to commit an action which is at once foolish and dishonorable.

Transactions of Societies.

BULLETIN

OF THE

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC & ARCHÆOLOGICAL
SOCIETY.

NOTICE.—The American Numismatic and Archæological Society will be at all times pleased to communicate with any individuals or Societies, on Numismatic or Archæological topics, to answer questions, and give all information desired. Letters of inquiry addressed to "CHAS. DE F. BURNS, Cor. Sec'y, Mott Haven, Westchester Co., N. Y.," will receive prompt attention.

Regular Meeting, October 25, 1866.

The first meeting of this Society since the annual recess, was held on Thursday evening, October 11th, the President and a fair attendance of members being present.

After the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, the Special Committee on the Lincoln Memorial Medal reported verbally that Mr. Sigel, the artist, had been conferred with, and that it was arranged to have a number of medals struck in block tin. The Committee expected to be able to report more fully at the next meeting.

Some further routine business having been concluded, there were exhibited a number of valuable donations which had accumulated during the recess. Among them were two splendid bronze medals from Messrs. J. S. & A. B. Wyon, medalists, London. One, a marriage medal of the Princess Helena of England, is two-and-a-half inches in diameter, and bears on the obverse fine portraits of the Princess, and Prince Christian, of Schleswig-Holstein. On the reverse, within a tressure of six inches, are two shields of arms, above which is a crown and the date "July, 1866." The second medal is in honor of Thomas Leverton Donaldson, and has a portrait in bold relief, with the inscription on the reverse, within a wreath, "To Commemorate Long and Zealous Services in Promoting the Study of Architecture;" it is two-and-a-quarter inches in diameter. Both medals are of the most beautiful design and execution, and the lettering being in mediæval characters adds much to their appearance.

From Mr. John F. McCoy, of New York, were received two large and elaborate medals in bronze of Gen. Scott, by C. C. Wright. They commemorate his victory in Mexico, and were struck, one by resolution of Congress, and the other by the Commonwealth of Virginia, 1847-8.

A fine medal in tin, of Washington Irving, struck by Henning, N. Y., was received from Mr. Francis Hoffman.

The Curator read a communication and presented one hundred "copperhead" tokens from Mr. Thomas Cleneay, Cincinnati.

Mr. J. N. T. Levick presented a large number of miscellaneous coins and medals in fine condi-

tion; also several catalogues, &c. Other donations were recorded, and after the reading of a paper contributed by Dr. Perine, the meeting adjourned.

JAMES OLIVER,

Rec. Sec.

Regular Meeting, October 25, 1866. Dr. G. H. Perine, V. P., in the chair.

The minutes of the preceeding meeting being read were accepted and adopted.

Several donations were received and recorded.

The following document was read by Mr. Levick:

"The undersigned, a majority of the members of the 'New York Numismatic Society,' deeming it inexpedient to longer continue the existence of that Society as an organization, and desiring, as far as possible, to aid and benefit the 'American Numismatic and Archæological Society,' have passed the following resolutions:

Resolved, That on and after the 31st day of July, 1866, the 'New York Numismatic Society' is and shall be permanently dissolved.

Resolved, That the Treasurer and Curator of said Society be instructed to make over to the 'American Numismatic and Archæological Society' all property belonging to said Society now in their possession.

Signed,

WM. C. PRIME,

JOHN F. MCCOY,

J. N. T. LEVICK,

WM. H. STROWBRIDGE,

R. HEWITT, JR.,

C. DE F. BURNS,

WM. ANDERSON,

JOE. E. GAY,

JAMES BAILL.

On motion, the above resolutions were accepted, and a Committee was appointed to receive the property. The resolutions were ordered to be entered at length on the minutes of this Society.

Mr. A. C. Roberts was elected a resident member unanimously, and the meeting adjourned.

JAMES OLIVER,

Rec. Sec.

BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting of this Society was held on Thursday, October 4th. Mr. Appleton, having returned from Europe, resumed the duties of Secretary. The records of the last meeting were read, and several donations were announced, including the American Journal of Numismatics and the Proceedings of the Manchester Numismatic Society of England.

The Secretary proposed as an honorary member, Dr. Clay, President of the M. N. S., and under a suspension of the sixth by-law he was immediately elected. The President announced that copies of the address delivered in January, 1865, by Dr. Lewis, on resigning the Presidency, having been reprinted from the American Journal of Numismatics were ready for distribution of members.

The President exhibited a heavy gold medal, a fine specimen of South American work. It was struck to commemorate the Congress of the South American Republics, held at Lima, in October, 1864. The names of the principal deputies are on the medal. The Secretary exhibited a collection of about thirty pieces of the English gold series, extending from Edward III, Richard II, Henry IV, and Edward IV, angels of Edward IV, Henry VII and Henry VIII, and sovereigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary, Elizabeth, James I, Charles I, and Cromwell. The rarest coin is the Oxford three-pound piece of Charles I.

He also showed three American rarities, bought in London; the first is a "wreath" cent of 1793, in perfectly brilliant condition; another is an impression in silver of the medal known as the "Voltaire" Washington, with the head of Jeremy Bentham; and the last and most precious is a bronze medal of Washington, with an old and ugly head, but an exquisite reverse. In a wreath of olive and oak is an extended figure of Fame, blowing a trumpet, and beneath her are the words "Emancipator of America." The medal is of size 28. The Secretary stated that he knew of only one duplicate of the silver medal, viz.: that in the Imperial Museum at Vienna, and the bronze is believed to be entirely unknown to collectors.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Ellis for the manner in which he had discharged the duties of Acting Secretary during the past year. The society passed some time in animated and interesting discussion, and adjourned at 5½ P. M.

THE BRACTEATES OF THE GERMAN KINGS AND ROMAN EMPERORS.

The bracteates of the German kings and Roman emperors form, without doubt, one of the finest and most complete series amongst all the numerous varieties of coins of the middle ages. Great as is their number, and various as are their types, so difficult and perplexing is their proper classification. It is well known that the kings and emperors did not coin only in one particular mint, but that under the supervision of their mint masters and præfects they had money struck in different towns and cities of their possessions. They often even went so far as to pawn the profitable right of coinage to cities or private speculators, especially in times of war, or, granted it for a certain sum of money to bishops and abbots, who, taking advantage of the growing power of the church, or the piety of their monarchs, knew how to make it perpetual. In this way the number of authorized imperial mints became very great, and endless varieties of bracteates and denarii flooded the country. It was common for the cities, on obtaining the right of coinage, to adopt a distinct type or device, which, being confirmed by the emperor, continued to be a mark of their coins.

Thus the bracteates of the imperial mint at the city of Muhlhausen, in Thuringia, show the emperor on horseback, behind the neck usually a tower or the orb of empire; those struck at Nordhausen have two crowned figures seated side by side, between them cross, etc. Few of these bracteates have inscriptions, generally only the older ones. For the most part only single letters, initials, or confused words, mingled with stars, half-moons, squares, roses, etc., fill the space usually allotted to the legend. But no space is left vacant: crosses, crucifixes, ringlets, flowers, of all kinds are crowded on the coin. If the figure is on horseback a tower or a city commonly appears between the feet of the horse or fills the background. On the bracteates the emperors appear standing or seated, sometimes but seldom on horseback, rarely in full-faced bust. They are seated on city gates, (a favorite emblem on German mediæval coins, said to signify the city of Rome), on thrones or chairs, ornamented with lion-claws and dog-heads, or on plain half-circles, sometimes beneath a baldachin. Standing, we find them between towers or without them. One bracteate found at Wetzlar has the emperor's bust between a tower and a palm-branch; another one in my possession, the crowned bust on a gate between two towers. The crown is composed of a single rim with three balls, a characteristic feature of the bracteates, for from the time of Conrad II., (1024—1039), the arched crown, and later the pointed iron crown, appears on the solidi of the kings and emperors. In the hands they bear single or double orbs of empire, surmounted by crosses or lilies, sceptres of various forms, crosses or flowers, seldom a sword or a book. The sword belongs to the knights and the book to the clergy. On horseback the emperors bear shield and flag. At first the shield bears no device. Philipp was the first to adopt the device of the eagle, the flag is mostly plain.

The oldest imperial bracteates are attributed to Lothar II., (1125—37), but the first of them with the legend, "*Luteger me fecit*," belongs rather to the series of the landgraves of Thuringia, coined perhaps in Erfurt, and is mentioned in the catalogue of the collection of the Leipsic city library, No. 6092, as belonging to Ludwig, (1172—1190). Others, with the like inscriptions, are evidently forgeries of a modern date, and sometimes most incredible devices; thus one has the laureated bust of the emperor in profile in a highly elaborate dress, which style did not occur on coins until two centuries later. One bracteate, with the inscription, "*Conradus imperat*," is given to Conrad III., (1138—1152), but it is known that neither Conrad III., nor the later Conrad IV., were crowned with the iron crown, and consequently only kings, which title also appears on their solid coins. Frederick I., Barbarossa or Redbeard, (1152—1190), gives us the first authenticated bracteate. At first his figure or bust appears only; afterwards

conjoined with that of his son, king Henry VI. The type is generally sharp and clear, the metal pure, but the inscriptions for the most part so indistinct and confused that it is difficult to distinguish the various names. The emperor appears seated, or his bust en face, with sceptre and orb of empire, or on horseback with shield and flag. One very rare type shows the emperor seated, below him kneels a woman in prayer; legend: "*Remurrcuin.*"

Philipp's (1197—1208) bracteates are distinguished by their greater breadth. Almost all of them are of the Thuringian mints; some of very fair workmanship, others, in consequence of the troubled, warlike times, hurriedly cast and very poor. The bracteates of Otho IV., (—1211), are either altogether mute or have the emperor's figure or bust, or the emperor on horseback; these latter are very rare. Some bear his badge, the lion of the Guelphs. One in my collection has the crowned lion with a human face to right, the tail ending in a lily, and the outer rim composed of diamonds and beads and closed by a cross. By some numismatists this type is attributed to Otho's father, Henry the Lion, duke of Saxony and Bavaria, afterward deposed by Frederic Barbarossa, but it is doubtful whether even that proud and haughty prince would have dared to provoke Barbarossa's wrath by assuming the crown—then the exclusive badge of royalty. Frederick II's (1212—12—) bracteates can scarcely be distinguished from those of Frederick I; they are of the same types, but near the end of his reign get very much debased. This depravity continues through the interregnum; the dies are worked carelessly, the devices clumsy and uncouth, perfect inscriptions become rarer, and their places take again single and confused letters. Most of the bracteates of this time are coined in cities, which are made known by inscriptions or coat of arms. Heinrich Raspe, both as landgrave of Thuringia and afterwards as German king, coined bracteates with his crowned figure on horseback. Of the same kind are those of Adolph, (1291—1298), which are distinguished mostly by the initial A, but a good many have not even this.

Of king Rudolphus, (1273—1291), as well as of the emperor Ludwig IV., (1314—1347), no Thuringian bracteates are known, those struck in Suabia bear their crowned busts with sceptre, orb of empire, or tower, and may be distinguished by the circles of beads and ringlets peculiar to that region. Their metal is pure, the outlines deep and clear, and the devices not without grace.

Here now closes the period of the bracteates and of the later kings and emperors there are hardly any to be expected.

H. F.

The letter of "M. F." which appears in another column will be answered in our next. At present our reply is crowded out.—Ed.

OFFICERS OF THE RHODE ISLAND NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION.

President,—CHARLES GORTON.

Vice President,—DESMOND FITZGERALD.

Secretary,—JOHN J. MEADER.

Treasurer,—CHARLES T. METCALF.

Cabinet Keeper,—ASA LYMAN.

Executive Com.,—THE PRESIDENT EX-OFFICIO, JOHN J. MEADER, ALBERT V. JENKS.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.

RHODE ISLAND COPPERHEADS.

We have received from a valuable contributor in Providence, R. I., the following corrected list of R. I. Copperheads. On comparison with the list published in the *JOURNAL* in June, it will be seen that they only vary in the metals, and in noting the number of *mules*, of which only three or four sets were ever struck. On this subject of *Muling* we have something to say in another column:

ABBREVIATIONS USED.

Ins.	Inscription.
Ob.	Obverse.
Rev.	Reverse.
S.	Silver.
C.	Copper.
B.	Brass.
G.-S.	German Silver.
W.M.	White Metal.
N.	Nickel.
T.	Tin.
L.	Lead.
M. E.	Milled Edge.

1.
Ob. "Charnley No. 11 Orange St Providence R. I." Anchor in shield. 13 stars.

Rev. Large "C" in centre "Union 1863" above; half wreath below, S.C.B.G.-S.W.M. N.T.L.

2.
Ob. Same as obverse No. 1.

Rev. "Frank L. Gay Bookseller & Stationer 140 Westminster St Prov. R. I." One star. S. C.B.G.-S.W.-M.N.T.L.

3.
Ob. Same as reverse No. 2.

Rev. "Good for One Cent 1863 Redeem.ed." One star within an open wreath. S.C.B.G.-S.W.-M.N.T.L.

4.
Ob. Same as reverse No. 2.

Rev. "Billiard Room & Restaurant No 27—31 Pleasant St." S.C.B.G.-S.N.T.

5.
Ob. Same as reverse No. 1.

Rev. Same as reverse No. 3. S.C.B.G.S. W.M.N.T.L.

6.
Ob. Same as reverse No. 1.

Rev. Same as reverse No. 4. S.C.B.G.S.N.T.

7.
Ob. "H. Dobson Union 1864." Two twigs joined.

Rev. Arcade House 62 Broad, St. Providence R. I." C.B.G.-S.W.-M.N.T.L. Size 11.

8.

Ob. "H-Y Lefevre. Pro: Empire SALOON. UNION" within a wreath.

Rev. A Beer Mug surrounded by 12 large stars, one small star above the mug, "1864" below. C. Size 15. Thick and thin die.

9.

Ob. Same as obverse No. 8.

Rev. "N 49-1 NORTH MAIN ST." 13 large stars and the date "1864" form the outer circle. C.B.G.-S.W.-M.N.T.L. Size 15.

10.

Ob. "City Fruit Store No. 4 Weybosset St Prov. R. I. Redeemed By Phillips"

Rev. "Rhode Island First In The Field; 1864" 13 stars form the outer circle. C.

11.

Ob. Same as obverse No. 10.

Rev. Full faced Bust of Gen'l Burnside in centre. "Rhode Island First In The Field 1864." S.C.B.G.-S.W.-M.N.T.L.

12.

Ob. "F. W. Shattuck 13 Weybosset St" "1864" within a half wreath. "Prov" above. "R. I. below.

Rev. Large "S" in the centre surrounded by an open wreath. "Burnside Fruit Store." C.B. G.-S.W.-M.N.T.L.

13.

Ob. Same as reverse No. 1.

Rev. Same as reverse No. 7. C.B.G.S.W.M. N.T.L.

14.

Ob. Same as reverse No. 1.

Rev. Dogs in pursuit of game. C.B.G.S.W.-M.N.T.L.

15.

Ob. Same as obverse No. 1.

Rev. Same as obverse No. 7. C.B.G.-S.W.-M.N.T.L.

16.

Ob. Same as obverse No. 10.

Rev. Same as obverse No. 7. C.B.G.-S.W.-M.N.T.L.

17.

Obv. Same obverse No. 7.

Rev. Same as reverse No. 14. C.B.G.S.W. M.N.T.L.

18.

Ob. Same as reverse No. 11.

Rev. Eagle on Anchor, surrounded by 16 stars. C.B.C.S.W.-M.N.T.L.

19.

Ob. Same as reverse No. 11.

Rev. Same as obverse No. 1. C.B.G.S.W.-M.N.T.L.

20.

Ob. Same as reverse No. 11.

Rev. Same as reverse No. 14. C.B.G.-S.W.-M.N.T.L.

21.

Ob. Same as reverse No. 11.

Rev. Same as reverse No. 7. C.B.G.-S.W.-M.N.T.L.

22.

Ob. Bust facing left. 14 stars. "Redeemed."

Rev. Same as reverse No. 18. C.B.G.-S. W.-M.N.T.L.

23.

Ob. Same as obverse No. 22.

Rev. Same as obverse No. 1. C.B.G.-S.W.-M.N.T.L.

24.

Ob. Same as obverse No. 22.

Rev. Same as obverse No. 14. C.B.G.-S.W.-M.N.T.L.

25.

Ob. Same as obverse No. 22.

Rev. Same as obverse No. 10. C.B.G.-S. W.-M.N.T.L.

26.

Ob. Same as obverse No. 22.

Rev. Same as reverse No. 7. C.B.G.-S.W.-M.N.T.L.

27.

Ob. Same as reverse No. 18.

Rev. Same as obverse No. 7. C.B.G.-S.W.-M.N.T.L.

28.

Ob. Same as reverse No. 18.

Rev. Same as reverse No. 1. C.B.G.-S.W.-M.N.T.L.

29.

Ob. Same as reverse No. 1.

Rev. Same as obverse No. 10. C.B.G.-S. W.-M.N.T.L.

30.

Ob. "East Boston 1837."

Rev. Same as reverse No. 11. C.B.G.-S.W.-M.N.T.L.

31.

Ob. Same as obverse No. 30.

Rev. Same as reverse No. 1. C.B.G.-S.W.-M.N.T.L.

32.

Ob. Same as obverse No. 30.

Rev. Same as obverse No. 22. C.B.G.-S.W.-M.N.T.L.

33.

Ob. Same as obverse No. 30.

Rev. Same as obverse No. 7. C.B.G.-S.W.-M.N.T.L.

34.
Ob. Bunch of grapes in centre. "POHLE 1863."

Rev. Goblet in centre. "ELMWOOD VINEYARD." Size 14. C.B.L.

10 sett struck of No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.
13 sett struck of No. 11.
4 pieces only struck of No. 34, when the dies were accidentally broken.
3 sett only struck of the other Nos.

"COPPERHEADS."

A Descriptive Catalogue of the Copper and Base Metallic Currency issued in the several States of the United States, commencing in 1862 and ending in 1864.

[NEW YORK CONTINUED.]

156
Ob. Same as obverse No. 153.
Rev. Wreath, shield and flags. "Freedom." One star. C.

157
Ob. Same as obverse No. 153.
Rev. Similar to reverse No. 156. "Freedom" in larger letters. C.

158
Ob. Same as obverse No. 153.
Rev. "O. K." 13 links conjoined. C.

159
Ob. Same as obverse No. 153.
Rev. "Abm. Lincoln President. 1864." Bust facing to the left. C.

160
Ob. Same as obverse No. 153.
Rev. Bust of Lincoln facing to the left, surrounded by 13 stars, "1864" below. C.B.N.T.

161
Ob. "Tom Cullen Liquors 609 Grand St. N. Y."
Rev. "NOT one cent." "L. Roloff" within a wreath. C.

162
Ob. Same as obverse No. 161.
Rev. Similar to reverse No. 161. "NOT" in antique letters. C.

163
Ob. Same as obverse No. 161.
Rev. "NOT one cent" within an oak wreath. Two stars. C.

164
Ob. "J. J. Diehl Undertaker 133 Essex St. New York." A coffin in a small open wreath. S.C.B.G.-S.N.T. Size 16.

165
Ob. "Carl Diem. Constanzer Brauerei 565 & 567 4th St. New York."

Rev. A large eight-pointed star, with leaves of clover in the points, a goblet in the centre, "Emil Sigel" in small letters below, the whole

surrounded by a circle of 24 stars.

S.C.B.G.-S.T. Size 18.

166
Ob. C. Doscher 241 Washington St. N. Y." 2 stars. "NOT one cent" within a wreath, small letter "H" below.

Rev. Indian head. "1863." 13 stars. Small letter "H" under the head. C.

167
Ob. Same as obverse No. 166.
Rev. Similar to reverse No. 166, but without the letter H. C.

168
Ob. Same as obverse No. 166.
Rev. Similar to reverse No. 167, but the stars larger. C.

169
Ob. Same as obverse No. 166.
Rev. Liberty head facing to the left. 13 stars. "1863." C.

170
Ob. "C. Doscher 241 Wash'n St. N. Y. 1863." Bust of Washington facing to the right.
Rev. "Not one cent. H" within a wreath. C.

171
Ob. Similar to obverse No. 170. The date smaller.
Rev. Same as reverse No. 170. C.

172
Ob. "M. Y. J. F. De La Vega. Vale por un Real."
Rev. "No Compromise with Traitors." Same as reverse No. 155. C.A.

173
Ob. "Felix TWO Dining Saloon 256 Broadway, New York."
Rev. Indian Head, 13 stars, 1863. C.B.G.S.N.

174
Ob. Same as obverse No. 173.
Rev. Shield within a wreath. E. S. in small letters below the shield. "Constitution and the Union." S.C.B.G.S.N.T.

175
Ob. "J. Fisher 254 Seventh Av. Segar Store."
Rev. Eagle on Globe, "Union for Ever." C.T.

176
Ob. "F. P. P. 145 Regt. N. Y. S. V." 1 star.
Rev. "25" in a six-pointed star. B.

177
Ob. "Fr. Freise, Undertaker 12 Ave. A. New York 1863." A coffin within a wreath.

Rev. An Indian head. "Fr. Freise, Leichenbesorger 12 Ave. A, New York." "E Sigel" in small letters below the head. C. Size 15½.

178
Ob. "J. F. Gardner 55 Henry St. N. Y." Two stars.
Rev. Same as reverse No. 173. S.C.B.G.-S.N.

COIN SALE.

A sale of Coins, Medals, and Miniatures on ivory, took place at the store of Messrs. Miner & Somerville, No. 37 Nassau Street, on Thursday, October 18th.

The catalogue included 251 lots, of which 62 were withdrawn, leaving 189 lots sold, which brought \$318.60.

The collection comprised a large number of very rare European Coins and Medals, but was so badly catalogued that it was impossible to obtain any idea of its character, except from personal inspection. Had a proper catalogue been issued, we do not question but that the proceeds of the sale would have been largely increased. Such cataloguing, as "2 very rare Coins, fine," "4 Coins, rare," etc., hardly gives one a just idea of the nature of the article to be sold; and how an unknown Coin can be catalogued as "rare," passes our comprehension.

No. 112 is noted as "1530, Charles V, Emperor of Rome, 'rare,'" this Coin or Medal, or whatever it may be, ought to have been catalogued as 'unique,' for it is certain that no one ever heard of another like it. No. 37 "an old and very rare Coin." No. 47, "1760, Coin of Prussia." No. 92, "1624, Medal made into a box, and containing small paintings on mica, fine and rare." We would like to know whether it was the medal, the box, or the mica paintings, that deserved the title "rare."

No. 129, "7 very beautiful Medals of Dukes, as a set very rare;" here Dukes are spoken of as if they were some curious species of bird or animal; Dukes of what, for goodness sake? These are specimen-bricks of an edifice which we do not desire to see duplicated.

COIN SALE IN ENGLAND.

The cabinet of coins of the late Mr. Gott, of Leeds, was lately sold by Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge, when a half noble of Richard II. brought six guineas; an angel of Richard III., £7 15s.; a sovereign of Henry VII., £39; a sovereign of Henry VIII., £15; sovereign of Edward VI., in his sixth year, £12; angelet of Mary, £11 5s.; sovereign of Elizabeth, £5 10s.; thirty-shilling piece of James I., £11; sovereign of Charles I., £7 10s.; broad of Cromwell, £6; half-broad of the same, £12 5s.; penny of Erfrith, King of Northumberland, £23; the Oxford pound piece of Charles I., £19. In another recent sale the service of numismatics to historical accuracy has been thus strikingly evident. The lot was—

40. Euthydemus (II.?) obv., diademed youthful bust to the right, of Asiatic type, the neck and shoulder clothed with the chlamys; rev., ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΕΥΘΥΔΗΜΟΥ, nude figure of Heracles standing to the front, his head en-

circled by a wreath of peculiar form, and another similar in his extended right hand, the club and lion's skin supported by the left arm. Monogram No. 2, Vide *Ariana Antiqua and Numismatic Chronicle* new series, Vol. II., pl. iv., N. 6. Extremely rare and in excellent preservation, the obverse being fresh as from the die. This brought £25, (General Fox.) The artistic merit exhibited in the above coin, with the peculiarity of the features, may be admitted as a guarantee of the fidelity of the portraiture; if so, the fact of there having been at the least two Kings in Bactria of the name of Euthydemus will not be disputed. (Vide Catalogue.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

Editor of American Journal of Numismatics:

DEAR SIR.—In your article in the October number of your valuable Journal, on "the depravity of American Coinage," I think you bear rather too hard on "Uncle Sam" on the subject of *debased coinage*. Allow me to say, that the regular coinage of the country has not been debased at this time, for the mint continues to issue every year a certain number of 10 cent, 5 cent, and 3 cent pieces of the old standard value, though those pieces are, at this time, of no use whatever to the country as a *circulating medium*. In 1853, the government found it necessary to debase a certain portion of our currency, in other words, to reduce the weights of all our silver coins of the value of 50 cents and under, and what was the reason? not that the government might reap the additional profit, which was the cause why that course was pursued by the Monarchs of England, when they debased their coinage, but to prevent the export of the silver coinage, which was at that time rapidly leaving the country, and to furnish the people with a *circulating medium*.

You know that in 1862-63, the country was flooded with an irresponsible circulating medium of shin-plasters and copperheads, issued by companies and individuals, and that we called loudly upon the government for protection against the trash. We were answered by the issue of the postage and fractional currency. Now it seems to me that the only question at issue in that matter between the government and the people, lies between the paper fractional currency and the proposed metallic issue. Which is the most convenient? as with gold at 150, it would be utterly useless for the government to issue small coins of standard value as a *circulating medium*.

But when you speak of the want of art displayed in the late issues of our mint, I perfectly agree with you,—the new 5 cent piece is not only mean in design, but what is still worse, most scandalous in execution. One great security which we have against counterfeiting, lies in the power of the mint presses to make much deeper impressions on hard metal than can be made by the counterfeiters, yet on all the new 5 cent pieces that I have seen, even on those they call *proofs*, the impression is so weak, that a very short time of wear, must render them entirely smooth.

It seems to me that if the government would adopt a very hard metal, such as Feuchtwanger's composition, for the Fractional Currency, and use the power of their presses in stamping deep impressions on their coins, that the counterfeiting of them could be much more easily detected, than that of the paper fractional currency after it is much worn.

M. F.

BOSTON, Oct. 20, 1866.

Mr. Editor :

Let me suggest to your readers who may have occasion to issue catalogues of their coins, that they adopt a uniform style of printing; and I would recommend that Mr. W. E. Woodward's catalogues be the criterion by which they will be guided. In point of typographical appearance, Mr. Woodward's catalogues are far ahead of everything of the kind yet issued, and in numismatic literary merit and information they excel all other works yet published in the United States, not even excepting Prime and Dickeson. It costs no more to print a good-looking catalogue than a poor one. For instance: If the Chilton catalogue had been printed in the Woodward style, a difference in favor of the customer would have been made in the items of paper, press-work, and binding. If my suggestion is carried out, I think it will please all those collectors who preserve catalogues for reference.

C.

Would not your answer to "S. H. R., Pittsburgh, Pa." apply equally as well to two-legged copperheads as it does to the small pieces of copper which the United States-Mint is vainly trying to excel?

BOSTON, Oct. 20, 1866.

Mr. Editor :

Allow me to correct several errors in the list of Coin Sales in the last number of the JOURNAL.

In lot No. 207, the price should have been 60 dollars and 81 cents, (\$60.81.)

In lot 215 the addenda should be omitted.

In lot No. 216 the name of the owner should be Dr. T. Larkin Turner, instead of "Dr. Larkin Yansed;" and the addenda contained 81 lots, which brought \$18.16.

Lot No. 223 should read as follows: "May 23, by Leonard & Co. Coins and rare books. 582 lots.

Addenda, 206 lots, price 240.82."

A collection of coins, owned by J. R. Story, and numbering 436 lots, was sold in this city, on the 19th inst., by Samuel Hatch. The price realized was about \$100.00. ***

Mr. Editor :

Inasmuch as nearly everybody, except the authorities at the United States Mint, appears to be making some suggestion in regard to a new currency in lieu of shinplasters, allow me, through the JOURNAL, to suggest the use of *old buttons* as a medium of exchange. The late war was the means of introducing a vast variety of these articles, in several metals and of various styles, for the use of the contending armies; and as there is now no further need of them, I think that my plan, if fully carried out, would be a great pecuniary saving to our government, and might possibly satisfy the lofty ambition of the *artist* at the Mint, who has already overtasked his fertile brain to produce the elaborate designs on our coins of small denominations just issued.

Everybody knows what buttons are, so there can be no mistake about passing them as such; but it would not take a very smart chap to pass one of the last five-cent coins as a button, unless the taker should notice that he was getting a very poor specimen.

For the benefit of the "powers that be," at the Mint, I would suggest that the infantry button should pass for a cent; the cavalry button for two cents; and the artillery button for five cents; so that the table would stand as follows:

Two infantries make one cavalry;

Two cavalries and one infantry make one artillery.

Yours, hopefully,

G. STRONG.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Contributions for this department are invited on topics of general interest to Numismatists and Archaeologists.

Announcements of Coins or Antiquities for sale, or desired for purchase, will be published in this column at a charge of twenty-five cents per line.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Oct. 29, 1866.

Ed. American Journal of Numismatics :

DEAR SIR:—Please give the history and value of the following coin: Obverse, legend, "For the use of Trade;" Bungay. Reverse, legend, "We promise to pay on demand One Half-Penny;" date, 1795. And the value of an English half-penny, in splendid preservation, dated 1735; also of the coin called the "Wellington Token."

Yours Resp'y,

FRED. A. HATCH.

Can any of your readers give me any information concerning the Jewish shekel; its history; where it was coined; varieties of type, &c.?

SOUS MARQUE.

Will you please inform me how many distinct varieties there are of the Connecticut cent of 1787?

Q. B.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

The answers to queries in this department will be furnished by the gentlemen best able to give the information in this country, and may always be relied upon.—[Ed.]

BOSTON, Oct. 16, 1866.

Editor of American Journal of Numismatics :

I would refer your correspondent, "W. S. T.," who inquires, on page 23, for the earliest date on modern coins, to an article in the first No. of the first vol. of the *Numismatic Chronicle*, from which it appears that the date of 1374 is found in Roman numerals on a coin of Aix-la-Chapelle. The earliest use of Arabic numerals on a coin, is also on one of Aix-la-Chapelle of 1404. Pieces bearing a date earlier than 1500 are seldom common. The first dated coin in my own collection is of Sigismund of Austria, of 1436. I have, however, a medal with the date of 1479.

Yours Respectfully,

WM. S. APPLETON.